



European Union

SHOULD THE EU CONTINUE TO EXPAND ?

AND IF SO, CAN IT DO SO WHILE MAINTAINING STABILITY AND EFFICIENCY?

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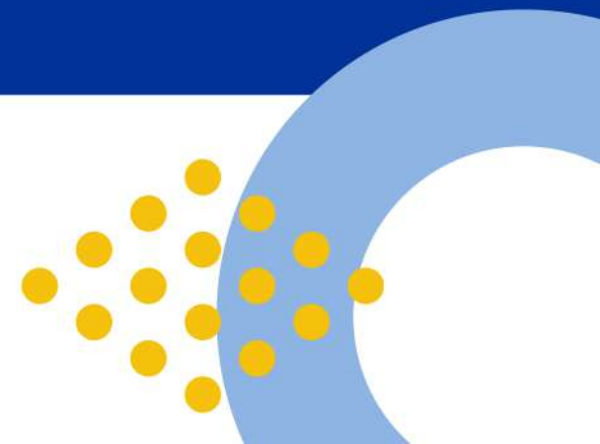


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I - CONTEXT



1

Origins



The first step was **the European Coal and Steel Community** in **1951**, which brought together France, Germany, and other founding members, ensuring that key industries were interdependent, making war between them unthinkable.



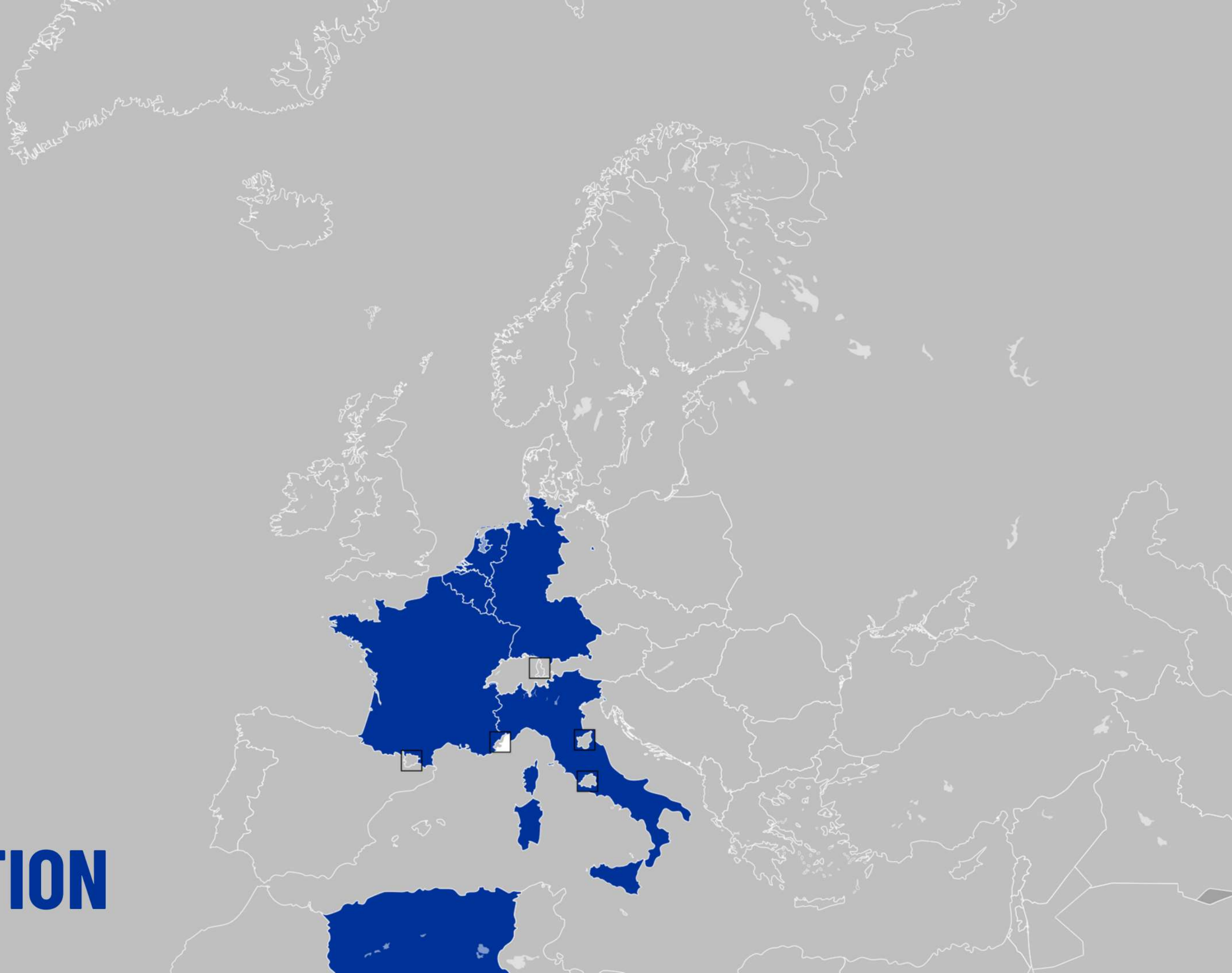
Economic cooperation followed with **the Treaty of Rome in 1957**, creating a common market. Over the decades, this project evolved, bringing deeper integration through policies on agriculture, monetary affairs, and environmental protection



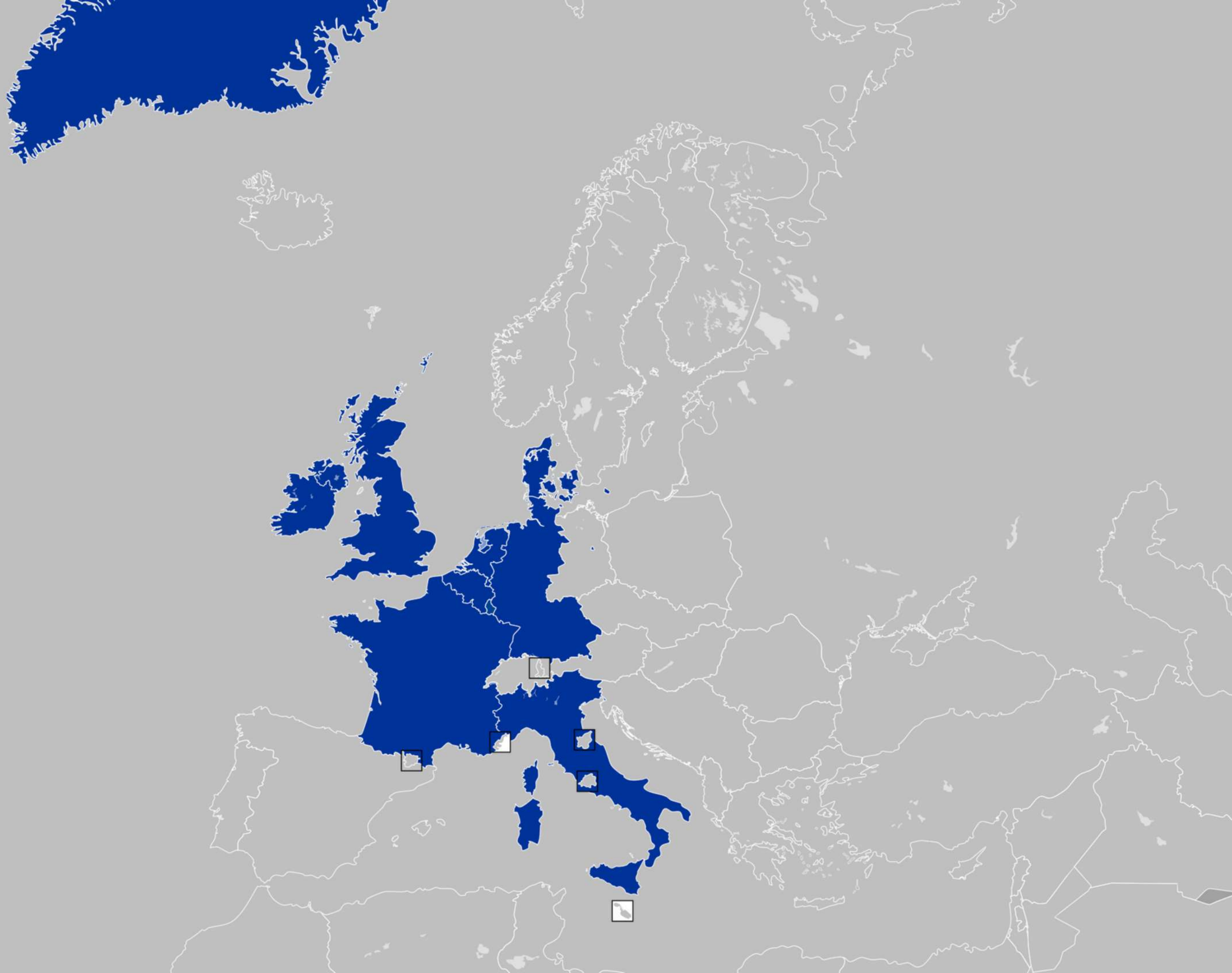
The **introduction of the Euro in 1999** was a major milestone, though not all members adopted it. The EU also became a leader in environmental action, with initiatives like the **Green Deal** aiming to make Europe the first carbon-neutral continent by **2050**



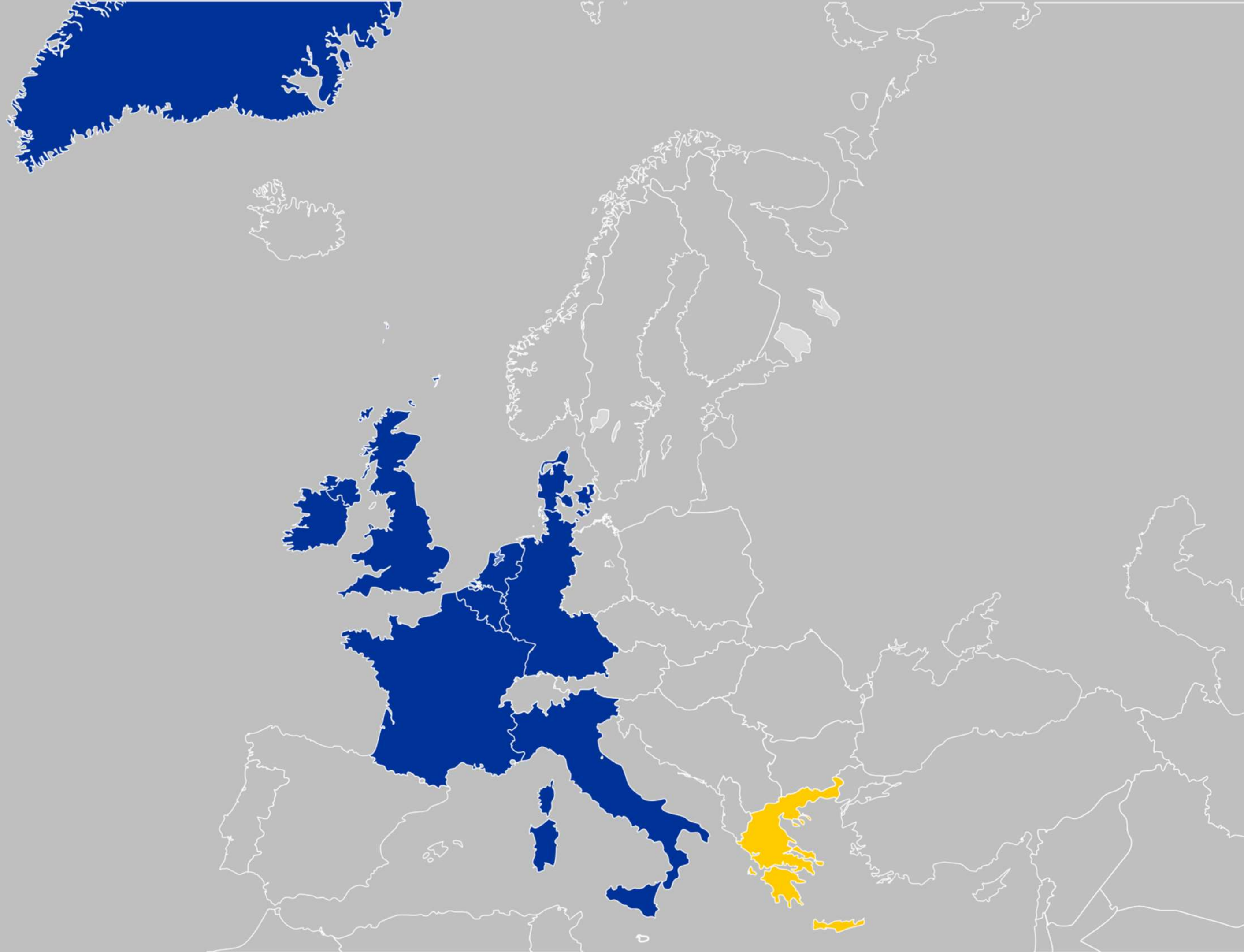
CREATION



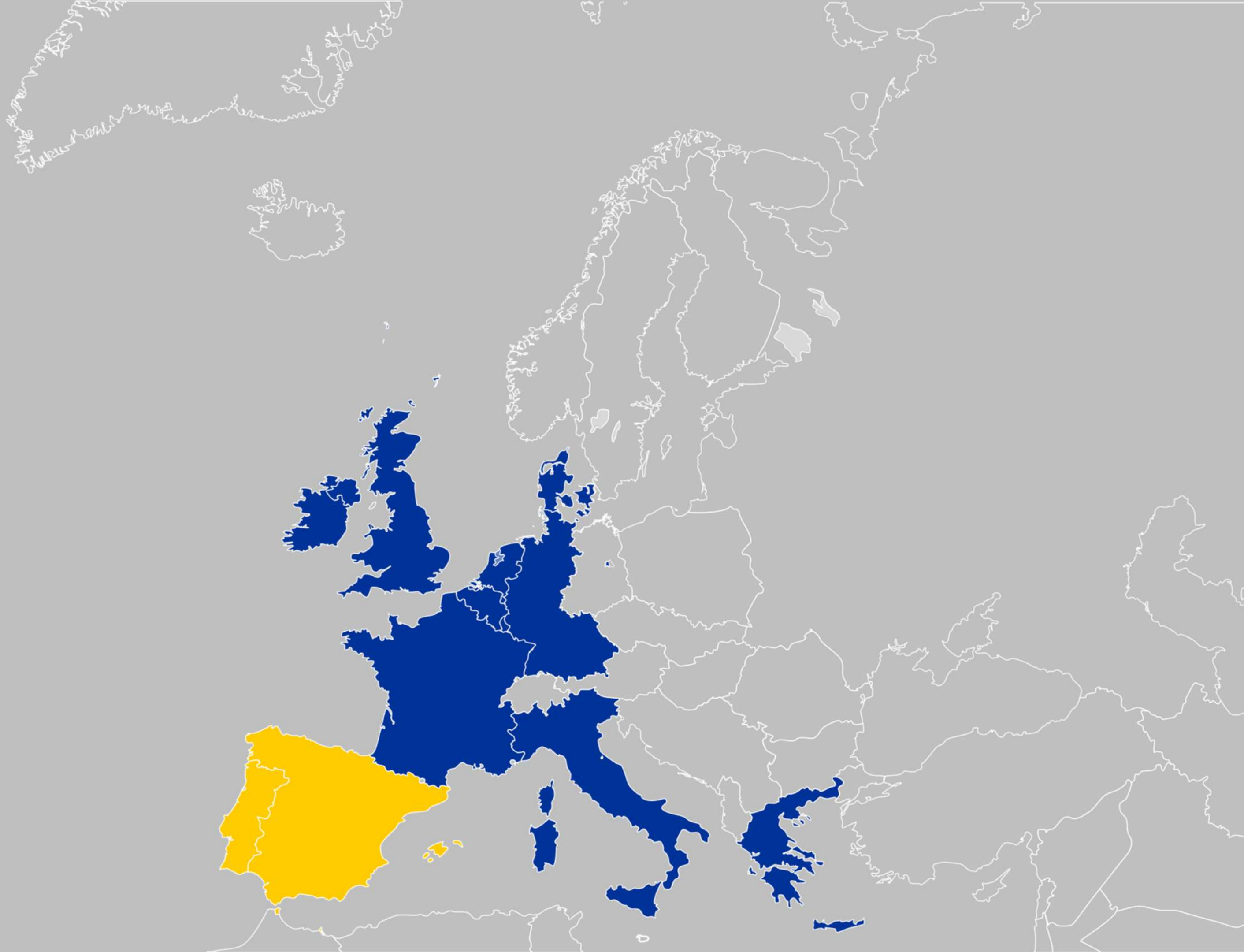
1973



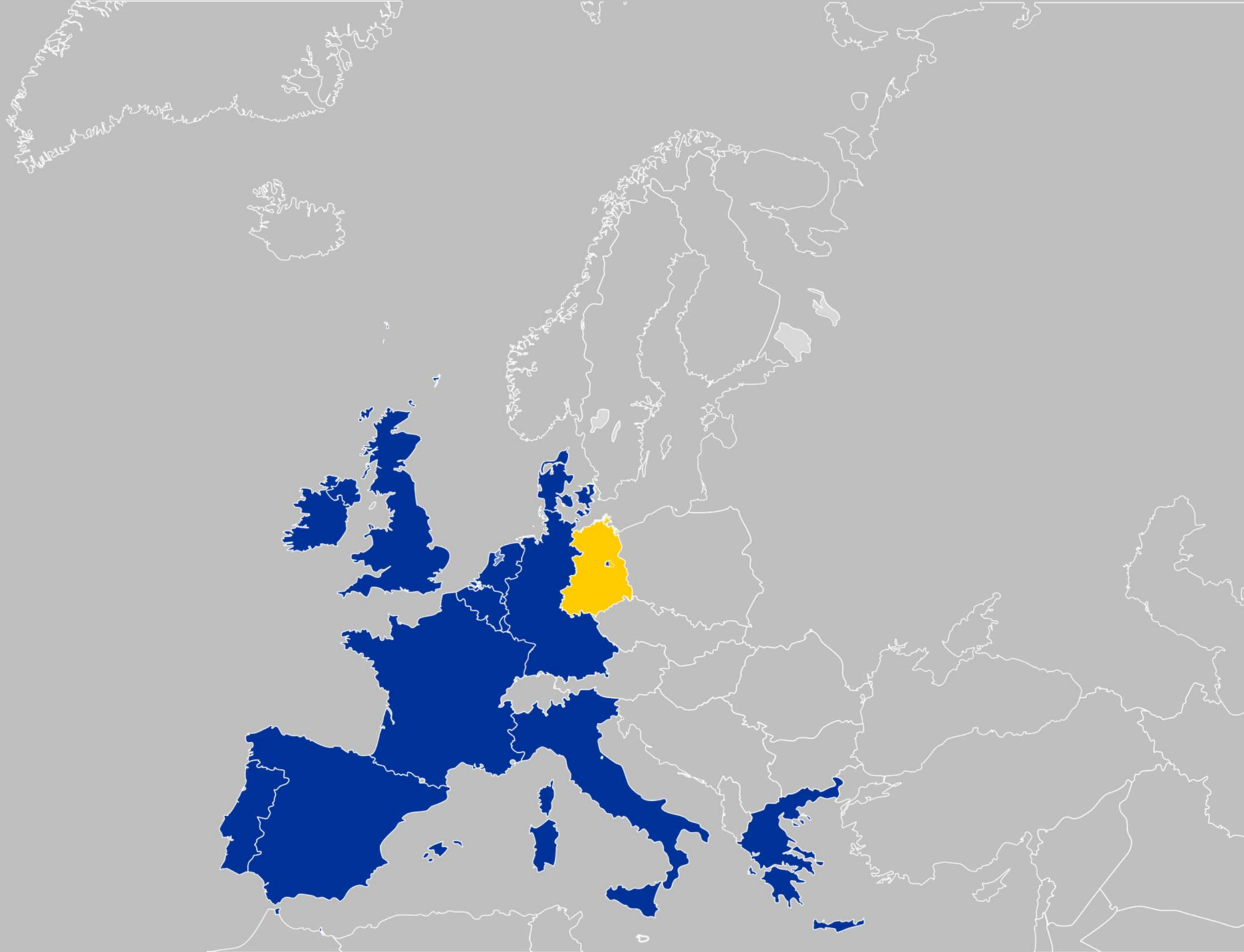
1981



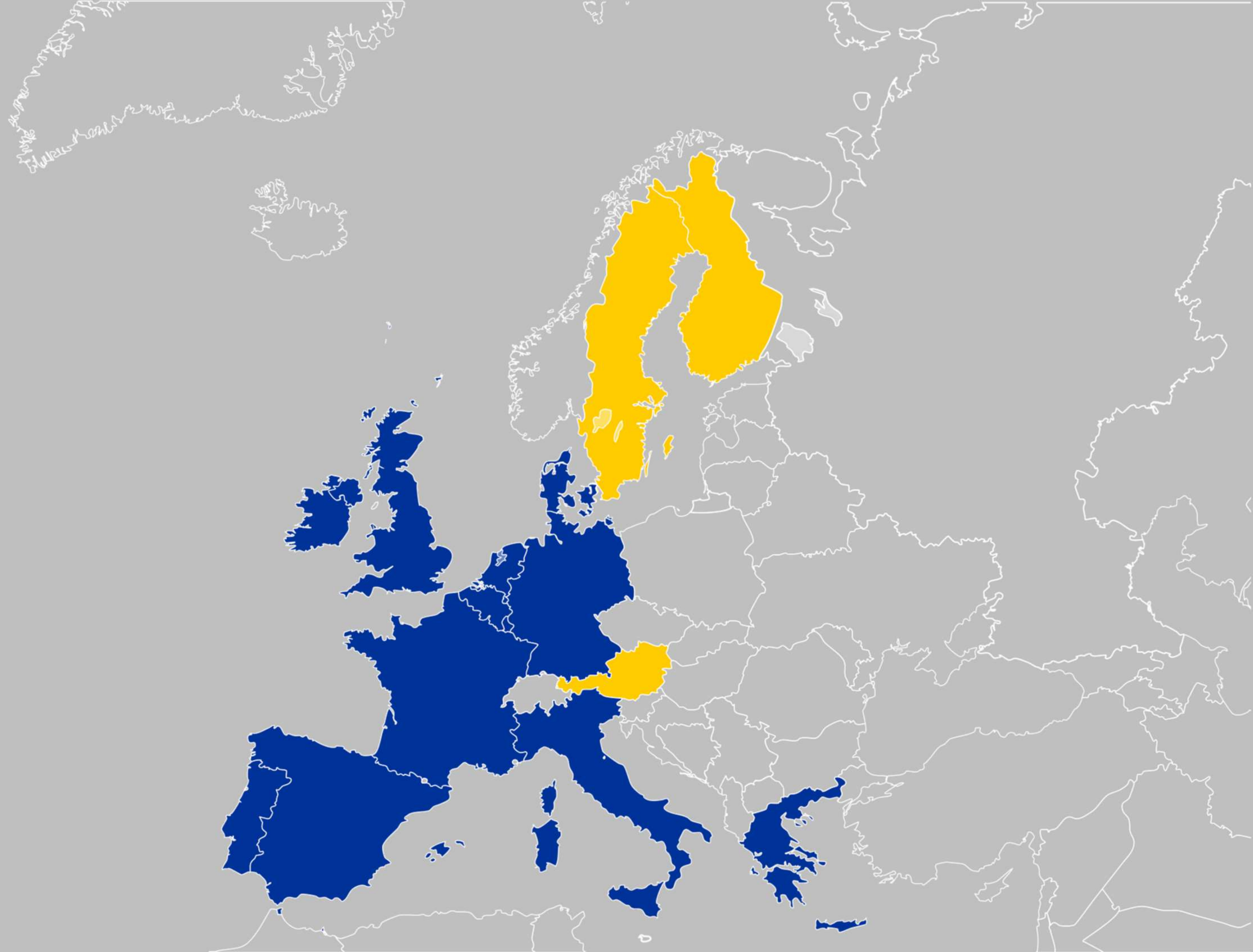
1986



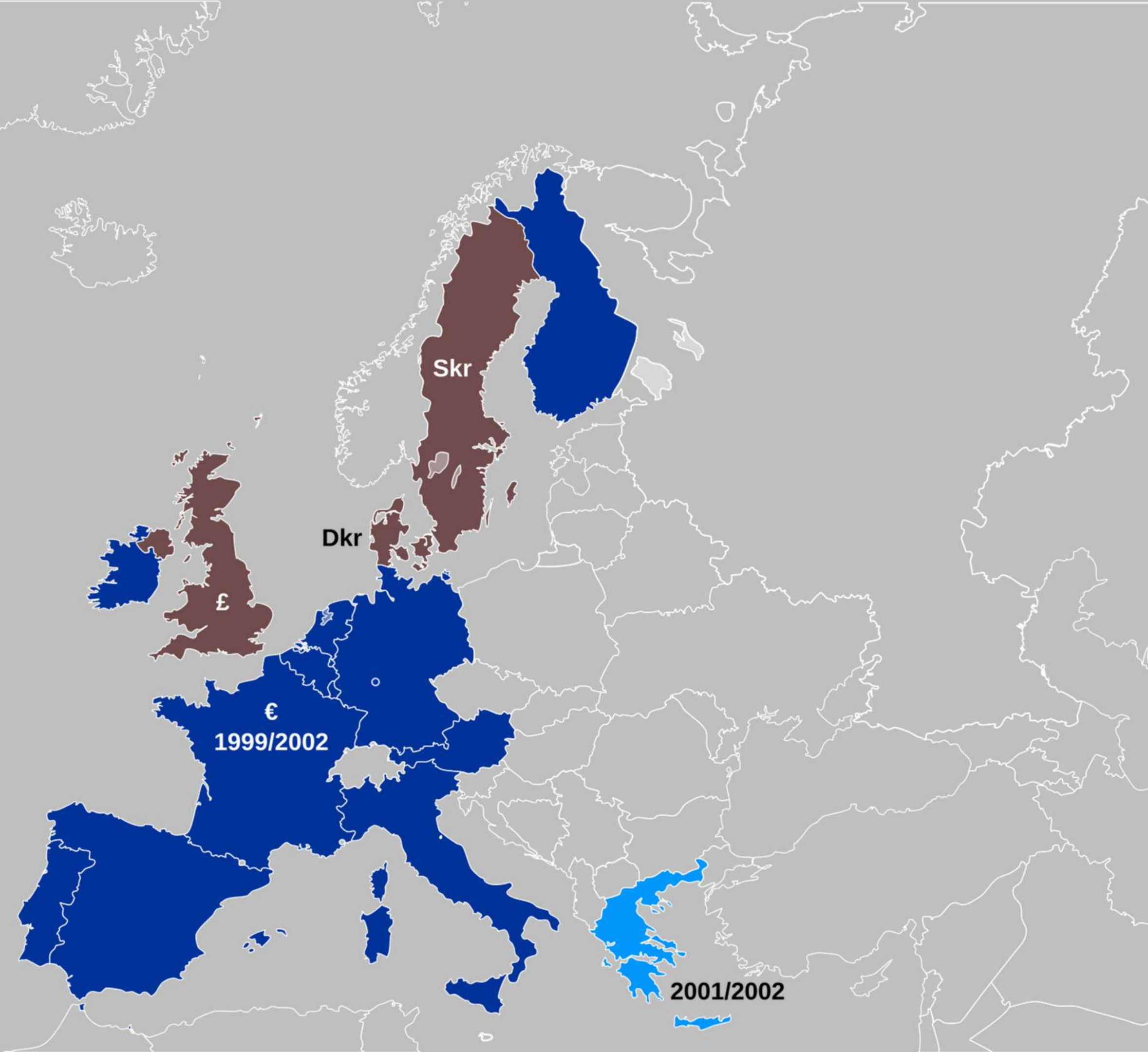
1986



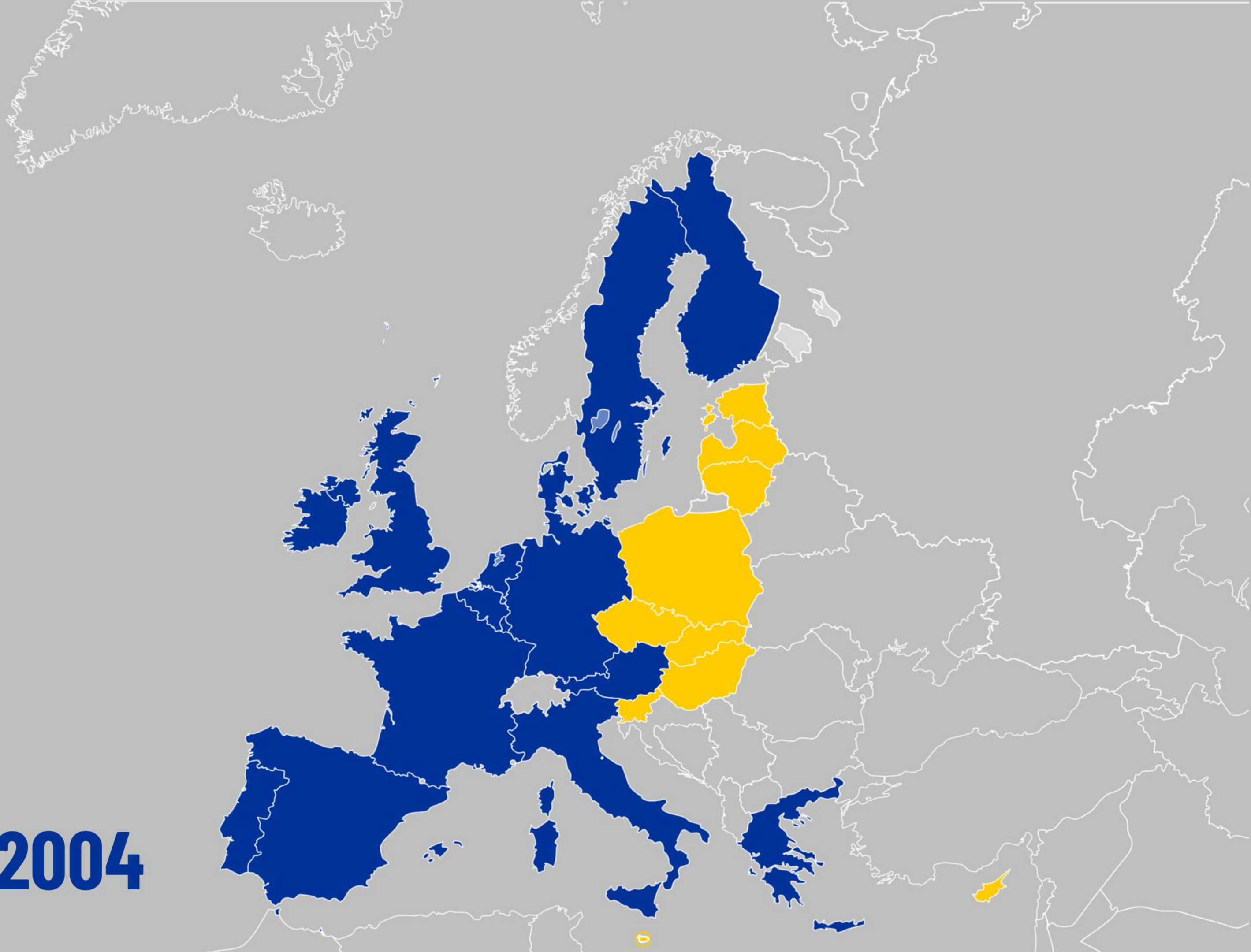
1995



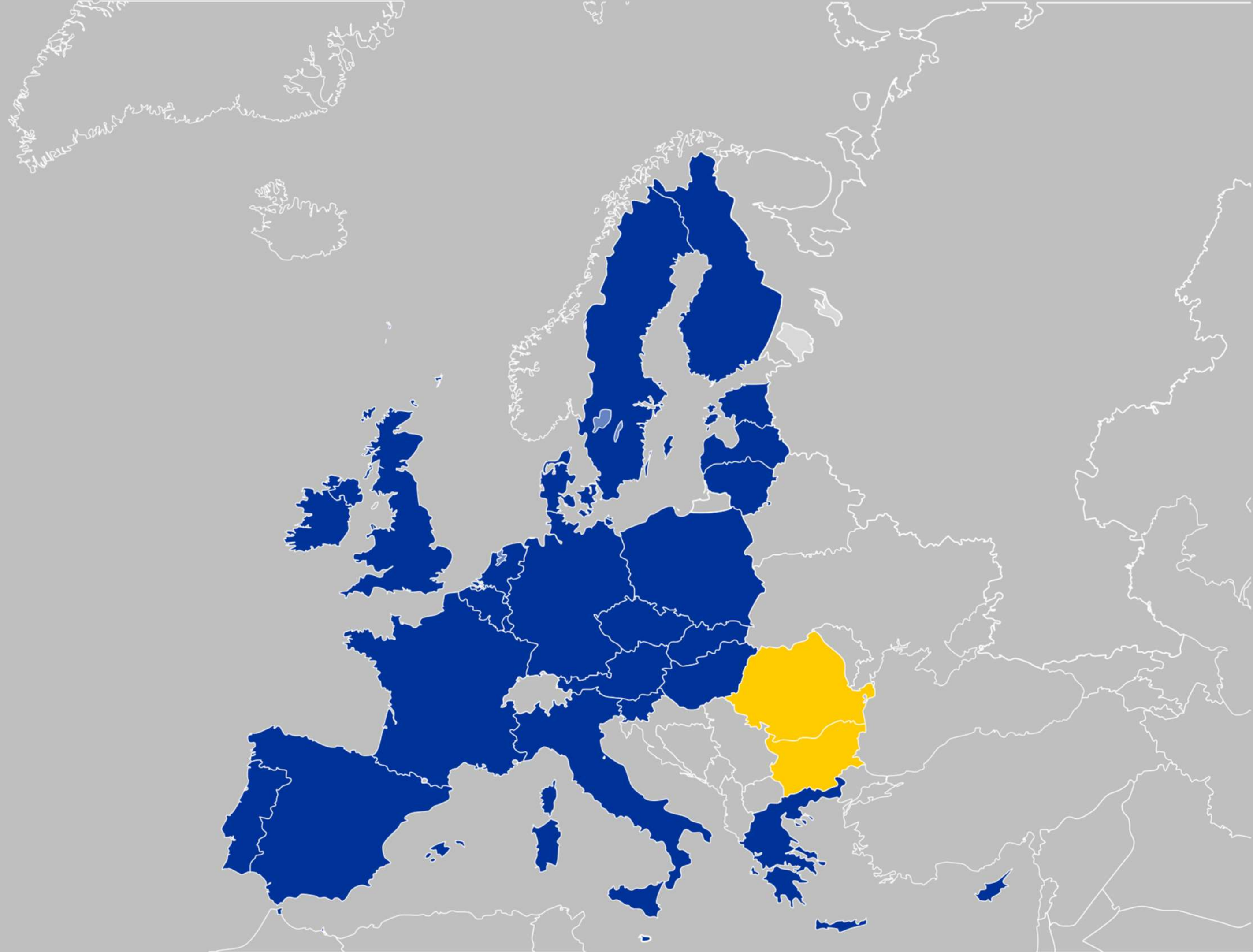
1999-2002



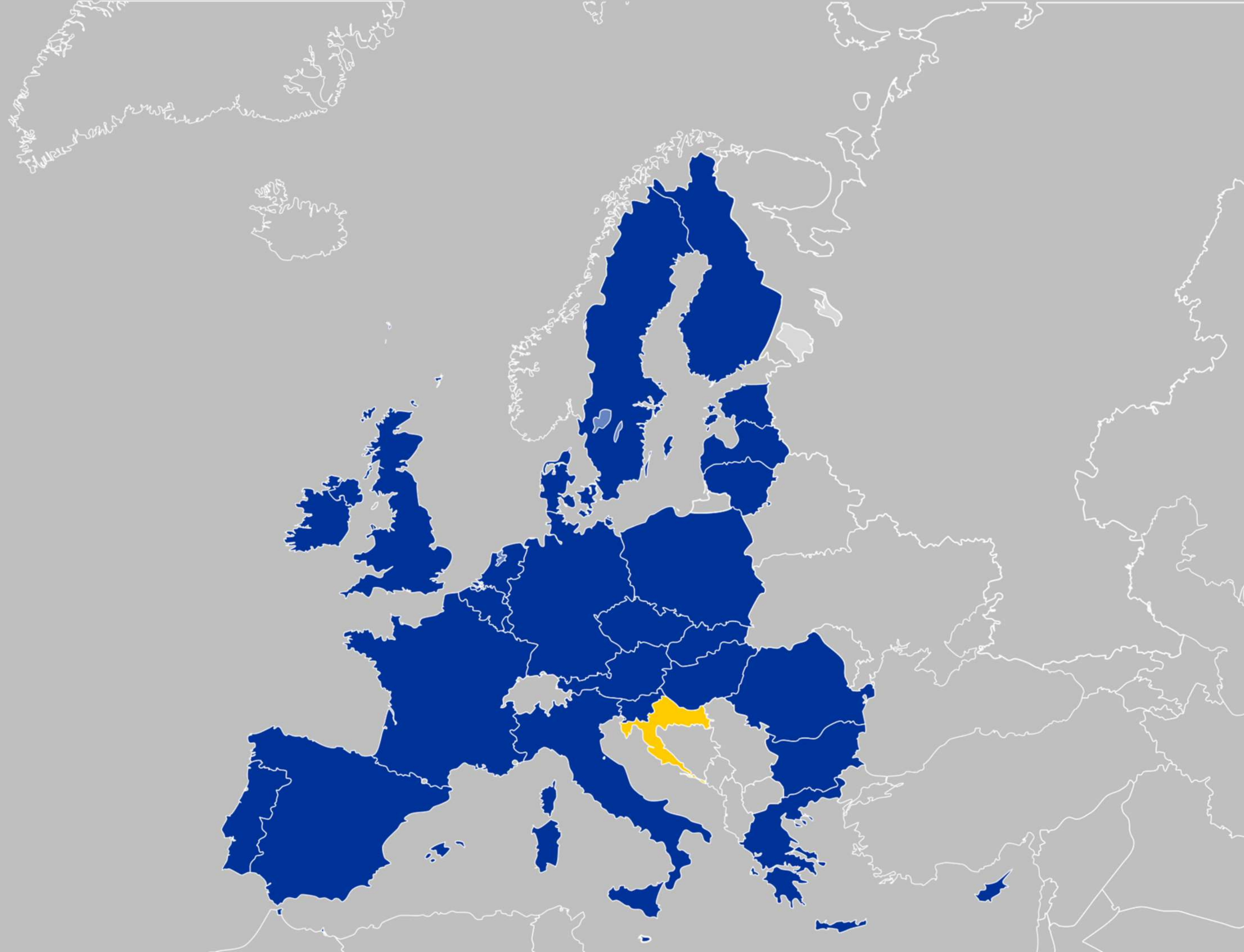
1999-2004



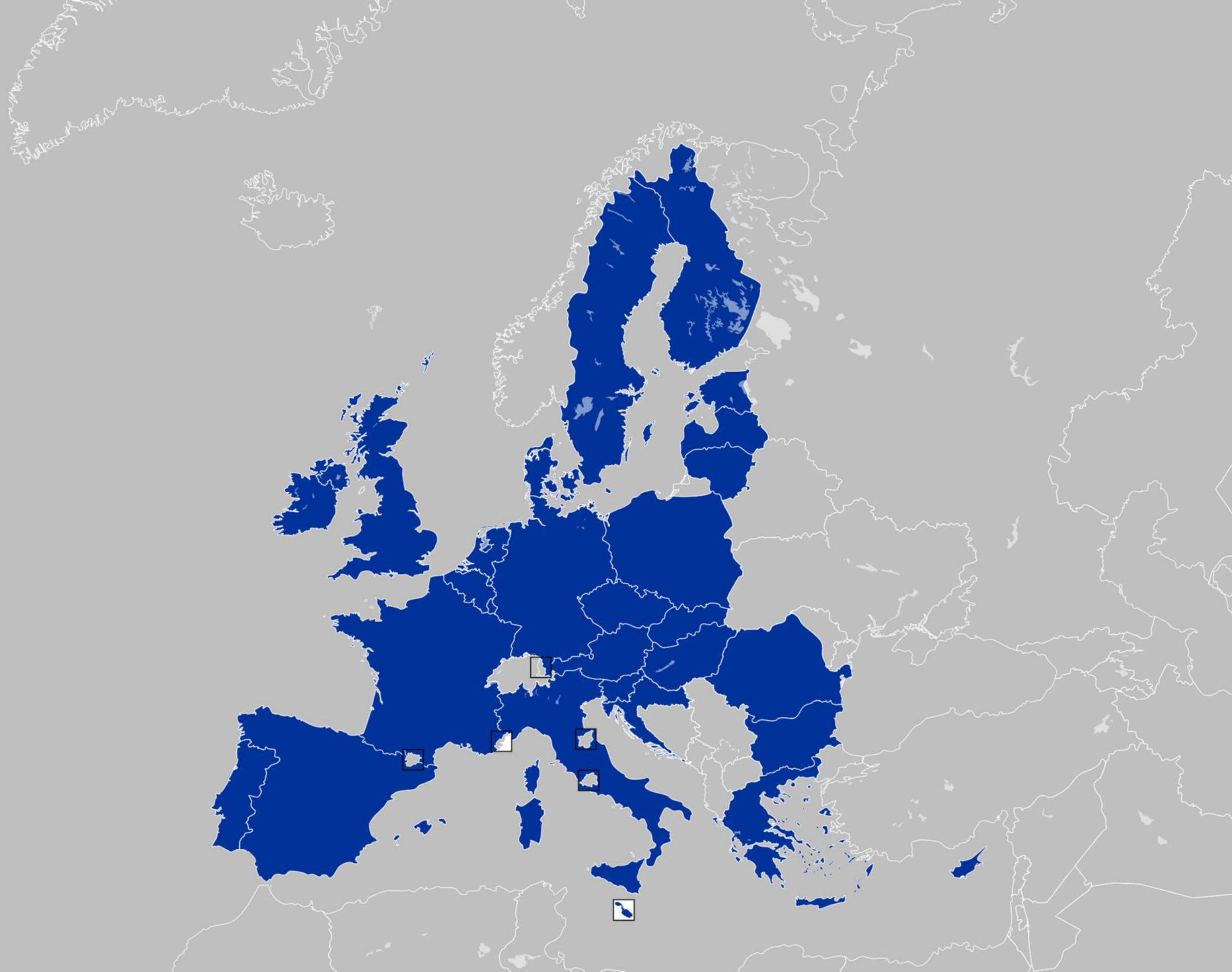
2007



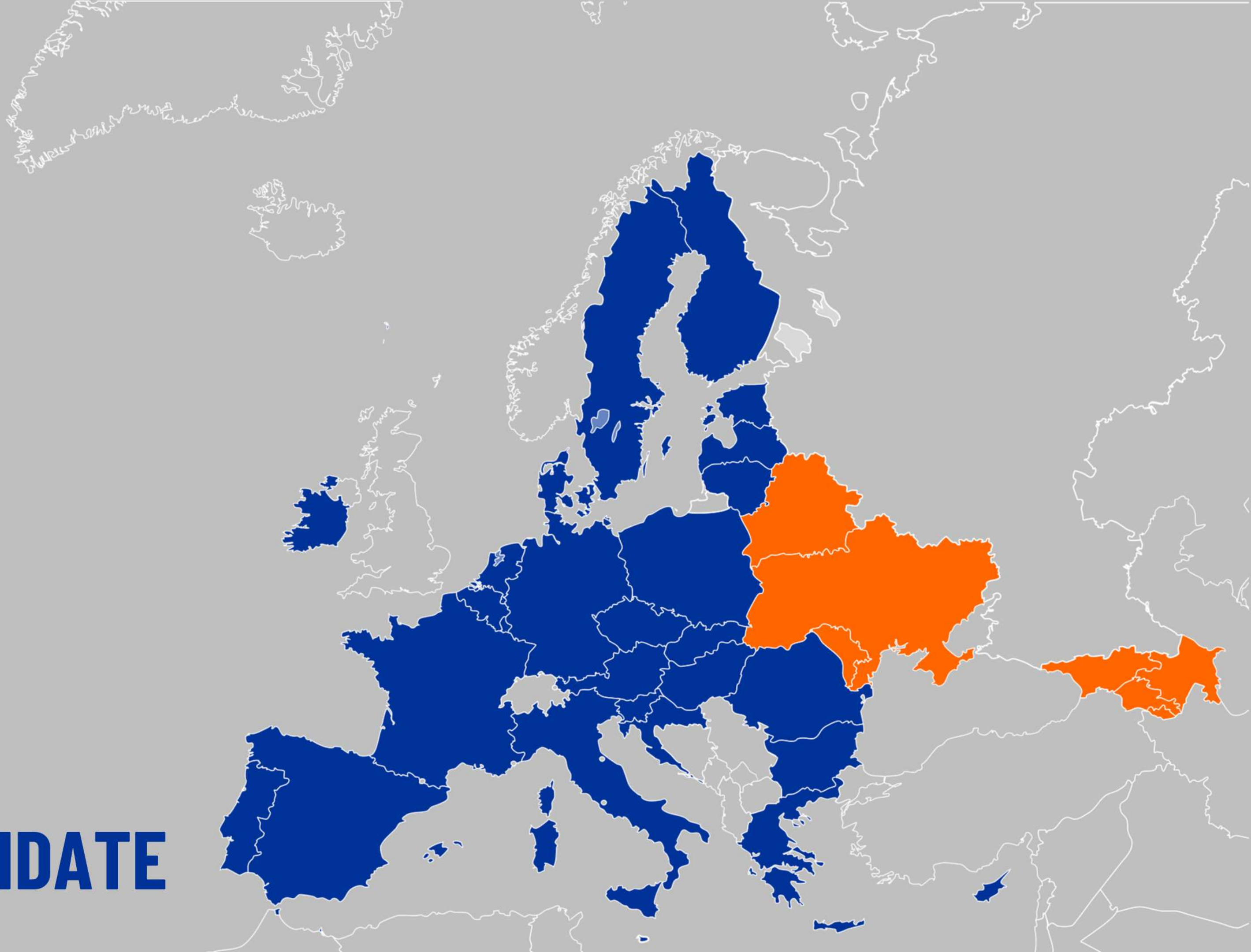
2013



2013

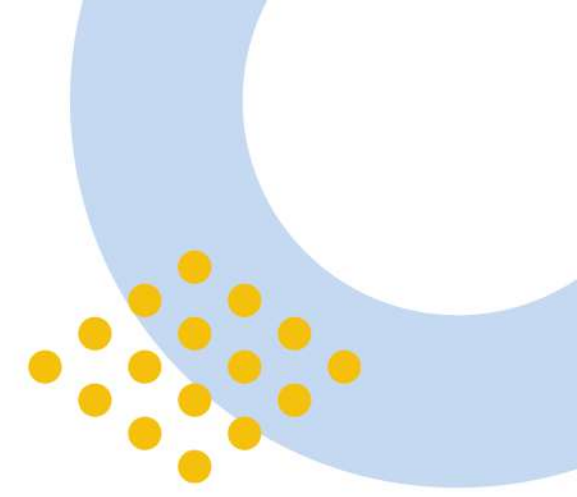


CANDIDATE



I- CONTEXT

3 - Intern Challenges



Despite these safeguards, enlargement brings challenges. The 2016 Brexit referendum exposed the limits of European integration, showing that not all populations accept shared sovereignty

Economic disparities are another issue, as newer members often require substantial financial support.

Nationalist tendencies in countries like Poland and Hungary, where tensions over democratic values persist, further complicate EU unity.

Decision-making has also become increasingly complex. More members mean more voices, making it harder to reach consensus, especially in areas requiring unanimous agreement.



I- CONTEXT

4 - Geopolitical Pressures



Externally, the EU faces geopolitical pressures.

1

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reinforced the EU's role as a geopolitical actor.

2

Granting candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova in 2022 signals the EU's commitment to expansion, but it also raises concerns about security and economic stability.

3

Similarly, the Western Balkans, including Serbia, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, aspire to membership. However, corruption, weak institutions, and ethnic tensions remain significant barriers.



II – THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF ENLARGEMENT



1

Strengthening peace and stability in Europe

- The enlargement of the European Union plays a key role in **promoting peace** and **stability** on the continent
- The **Integration** of countries can **help ease these conflicts** (Western Balkans)
- The EU can offer **solid economic** and **political opportunities**, while fostering a framework for dialogue between divided communities

Example :

After Cold War, the enlargement of the EU to Central and Eastern European countries **supported their transition to democratic systems** (Poland, Czech Republic & Hungary)

These countries received **institutional framework** to solidate their **political, economic and social institutions**



II - THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF ENLARGEMENT



2

Economics advantages



The integration into the **single market** enables trade to **expand**, giving european companies access to **new consumers** and **new economic** partners.



The integration of new countries also brings a **young, skilled** and **dynamic workforce**, capable of compensating the demographic challenges facing member states



The harmonization of standards and regulations simplifies **cross border trade** and create a **more stable** **enconomic** **envrionment**



II - THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF ENLARGEMENT >>>>>

3

Increased geopolitical influence

The EU's enlargement strengthens its role as a global player on the international stage

Faced with powers

An enlarged Union has more economic, human and political resources to bring to the negotiating table

The integration of strategically located countries

Helps to contain Russia's growing influence in these regions

Enlarging its geographical perimeter

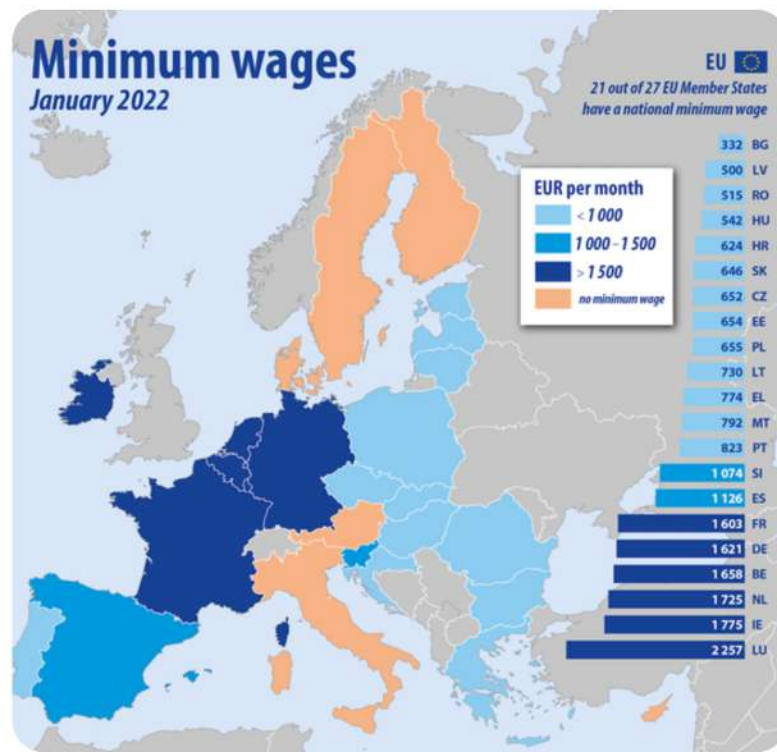
The EU can promote its values of democracy, the rule of law and human rights in regions where these principles are sometimes fragile



III - THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ENLARGEMENT

Economic matters

Unfair Competition with new EU entrant



New entrant with lower economic power



Fear of a New Greek case for new entrant



III - THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ENLARGEMENT

Other matters



Social

- Cultural differences
- fear of losing the EU identity



Politic

- fragility in Europe
- difficulty to take decisions
- Difference on value



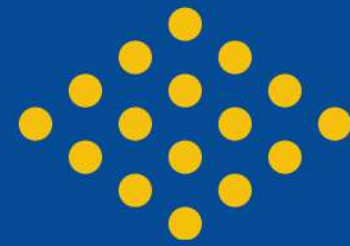
Geopolitic

- Fear of a Conflict with Russia
- More borders to manage

REFORMING THE EU BEFORE ENLARGEMENT

Why ?

- The EU has 27 member states, which slows down decision-making.
- The unanimity rule often blocks major reforms.



Proposed solutions

- Institutional reforms: generalize qualified majority voting for strategic decisions.
- Strengthen accession criteria to ensure that new members respect democracy and the rule of law.

Objective

More effective governance before welcoming new countries.



GRADUAL INTEGRATION TO PRESERVE EU COHESION



A step-by-step approach :

Before full membership, the EU may offer:

- ✓ Advanced economic partnerships
- ✓ Partial participation in certain European policies

Tests the country's commitment before full integration.



Example: the Balkans

Strengthen economic and political cooperation before definitive accession.

Preserving the European identity

Invest in cultural and social exchanges:

- ✓ Erasmus, youth mobility, professional exchanges.

Strengthen the sense of belonging to the EU.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the enlargement of the European Union presents both opportunities and risks. On one hand, it strengthens economic growth, geopolitical influence, and regional stability. On the other hand, it complicates governance, requires economic investment, and tests political cohesion. Moving forward, the EU must carefully balance its expansion ambitions with the need for stability and efficiency, ensuring that further enlargement genuinely benefits the European project as a whole.





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**THANK
YOU!**



Do you have question ?